



**Delta Protection Commission Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2016**

Knightsen Farm Center
3020 Second Street
Knightsen, CA 94548

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENDA

1. Call to Order

Chair Piepho called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m.

2. Roll Call /Flag Salute

Commission Clerk Matthews called the roll. Present: Chair Piepho, Vice Chair Thomson, Commissioners Johnson, van Loben Sels, White (for Kelly), Ferrara (for Laird), Lester-Moffitt (for Ross) Nomellini (for Scriven), Provenza (for Villegas), and ex-officio Commissioner Frazier. Subsequent to the roll call, Commissioner Bugsch arrived at 5:51 p.m. and Commissioner Nottoli arrived at 6:55 p.m. Commissioners Cabaldon, Ferguson, Lofthus, and Winn were absent without alternates.

A quorum was established with nine Commissioners present at roll call. Chair Piepho asked Commissioner Frazier to lead the flag salute.

3. Welcome and Public Comment- Opportunity for the Public to Address the Commission Regarding Items Not on the Agenda

There was no public comment.

CONSENT AGENDA

4. Approval of October 20, 2016, Meeting Minutes

5. Approve 2017 Commission Meeting Dates

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Provenza to approve the October 20, 2016, meeting minutes and the 2017 Commission meeting dates (January 19, March 16, May 18, July 20, September 21 and November 16); in a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously with all nine Commissioners present at roll call voting aye.

6. Appoint 2017 Commission Chair and Vice-Chair per Public Resources Code Section 29739(b)

MOTION: It was moved by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Provenza to appoint Commissioner Thomson as Chair and Commissioner Villegas as Vice-Chair for 2017-2018; in a voice vote, the motion carried unanimously with all nine Commissioners present at roll call voting aye.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Receive Executive Director Report

Executive Director Vink presented updates on the following: nominations for the Delta Leadership Program are due November 18, 2016, with Commissioners Thomson and Winn agreeing to help review the applications; the draft report on the Delta Flood Risk Management Assessment District Feasibility Study will be presented to the Commission subcommittee on December 8, with written comments due December 23; Commission staff are preparing a scope of work for the update of the agricultural sections of the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP); following up on inquiries at the last Commission meeting, information was presented on DWR's emergency rock stockpiles in Rio Vista and Stockton; the Commission prepared a single land use comment letter in the last two months; and an update was provided on the Delta Protection Commission budget and upcoming Delta events.

Chair Piepho asked for public comment and there was none.

Commissioner Thomson requested an amendment to the format of the budget update.

8. Receive report from Delta Protection Advisory Committee

DPAC Chair Mark Pruner presented an update on the October 25 DPAC meeting including a request that the Commission review and resolve the comments on the levee financing feasibility study submitted by Melinda Terry. The Committee also discussed the 2017 Delta Leadership Program, Delta Conservation Framework, and comments from DPAC member Bill Wells regarding the growing homeless population in Walnut Grove and Locke.

Chair Piepho commented on the importance and value of researching and acting on our growing homeless situation. Commissioner White has offered to connect with Housing and Community Development staff on the homeless matter.

9. Receive Presentation on Delta Socioeconomic Indicators Project

Executive Director Vink and Program Manager Jennifer Ruffolo introduced Dr. Catherine Brinkley and Dr. Anne Visser from the UC Davis Center for Regional Change, the lead researchers on the Delta Socioeconomic Indicators Project. The Commission's Economic Sustainability Plan recommended an Economic Sustainability Scorecard and this recommendation was later included in the 2013 Delta Plan. Drs. Brinkley and Visser presented examples of indicators related to agriculture and employment/income. A feedback form was distributed to Commissioners and collected at the end of the meeting.

In the Commission discussion that followed, Chair Piepho reiterated the need to include measures for homelessness; in particular, the growing homeless veteran population. Commissioner Nomellini commented on water quality as an important factor when looking at the economic indicators, both for agriculture and recreation. Ex-officio Commissioner Frazier commented on labor cost and how automation and recent legislation on overtime and minimum wage could affect agricultural employment. Commissioner Provenza questioned if these indicators could be used in conjunction with other conservation plans.

Mark Wilson of Clarksburg provided public comment, questioning how many people live and work in both the primary and secondary zones.

10. Receive report on Delta Conservation Framework

Dr. Brooke Jacobs, Dr. Christina Sloop, and Carl Wilcox presented California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Delta Conservation Framework, an effort to guide restoration activity in the Delta through 2040. Public workshops were held monthly beginning in August 2016 and include upcoming workshops in Walnut Grove on November 30 and December 1. Commission staff agreed to assist in promoting the workshops. The Framework is expected to be completed in Winter-Spring 2017.

In the Commission discussion that followed, Commissioner Provenza questioned how this effort coordinated with local Habitat Conservation Plans completed under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act. Commissioner Nottolli mentioned the tight timeline for this effort and requested the Commission ask for additional time for the Delta community to provide comment; as there was not an action item on the posted agenda, it was agreed that the Commission staff would follow up as CDFW prepared the next iterations of their report. Commissioner Johnson asked about the workshop turnout and how the project was being funded.

Members of the public commented on this item. DPAC Chair Mark Pruner expressed concern about the light participation by Delta residents and landowners and supported the request for additional time to review the draft Framework. Melinda Terry suggested that the Delta Caucus (County Farm Bureaus from the 5 Delta counties) should be invited, and Mark Wilson supported the need to have additional Delta residents participating.

11. Receive report on Division of Boating and Waterways Aquatic Invasive Species Planning

Chair Piepho introduced Deputy Director Lynn Sadler and Edward Hard from the California Department of Parks and Recreation-Division of Boating and Waterways. Ms. Sadler presented an update on efforts to control invasive aquatic plants in the Delta including the process the Division will undertake to obtain a new biological assessment for federal Endangered Species Act compliance. She asked for help in obtaining "spoiling areas" to dry and compost harvested water hyacinth.

Chair Piepho suggested DPAC work with residents and farmers to identify spoil sites. Ex-officio Commissioner Frazier asked about the expiration of the current spraying permit; Ms. Sadler stated that this permit ends in 2017.

Chair Piepho asked for public comment and there was none.

12. Consider Commission Comment Letter on the Delta Stewardship Council's Delta Levee Investment Strategy (DLIS)

Executive Director Vink stated that there was not a comment letter to consider tonight because the council had not yet released the discussion draft of the Chapter 7 revisions to the Delta Plan. He reminded the Commission of the levee statement it adopted at the November 2015 meeting and stated the intention to include this item on the Commission's January 2017 meeting agenda.

13. Presentation to Chair Mary Piepho

Vice Chair Thomson gave thanks to Chair Piepho for her 12 years as a County Supervisor and Commission member, culminating in her service as Chair for the past two years. He also thanked her for her motivation to convene the Delta Counties Coalition. He presented Chair Piepho with a Delta region sculpture on behalf of the members of the Commission.

14. Commissioner Comments

Chair Piepho asked for public comment and there was none.

15. Adjourn

Chair Piepho adjourned the meeting at 8:21 p.m.